

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for logically connecting a small office, home office having at least two local area networks therein, to a wide area network via use of a software bridge/router, is disclosed. Generally, computers within a first and second local area

5 network store a bridge/router software package prior to initiation of the local area networks. At initiation, the first computer to locate a digital subscriber line becomes a master PC and all other computers become slave PCs. The master PC obtains the media access control address of all slave PCs such that the first and second local area networks become logically connected via the software bridge/router provided by the master PC.

10 Data to be transmitted from a first slave PC within the first local area network to either a second slave PC within the second local area network, or to the wide area network, is first transmitted to the master PC. The master PC determines the destination of the data, after which, the master PC transfers the data either the second slave PC or to the wide area network. When the data is destined for the wide area network, the master PC also

15 performs a protocol conversion if necessary.